D-7974

File No. 7974

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special Branch.

SECRET

REPORT

Date February 3, 1937.

Subject Shanghai Operators Service and Frederic Leslie Shunaman.

Made by and Forwarded by D.S.I. Coyne

The Shanghai Operators Service and Frederic Leslie Shunaman were the subjects of a letter dated August 8, 1936, from the United States Consul General to the Commissioner of Police in which information was requested concerning Shunaman and his associates.

As a result of enquiries made by the Special Branch a report was forwarded on August 26, 1936 in which particulars regarding the opening of the Shanghai Operators Service by Shunaman were given, but up to that time nothing had been discovered regarding his associates.

No further enquiries were made regarding Shunaman until January 1937 when information was received from a Chinese Government agent to the effect that it was believed that the Red Armies in Western China had foreign agents in Shanghai.

In searching for a person who might have taken over the duty of Leon Minster, who was at one time engaged in purchasing radio equipment for the Red Armies, the possibility that Shunaman might be engaged in this work occurred to the undersigned.

At the United States Consulate General it was learned that Shunaman was born at Leominster, Mass. U.S.A. on March 13, 1901 and that his father became a naturalized citizen in 1908. He is in possession of Passport No.198985. His wife Yetta Shunaman (nee Gabin) was born in Besarabia, South Russia, and took out naturalization papers on December 4, 1917. She is in possession of passport No.264114.

(Although it may be a coincident, worthy of note is the fact that Shunaman was born at Leominster and is believed to have relieved Leon Minster.)

S/B file D.6669

Continued over all times of enquiry

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE 4 FEB. 1937 SHANGHAI

S.1. DBR

FILE

FM. 2
G. 40M-9-35

File No.....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

REPORT

Date.....19

Subject.....

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Made by.....Forwarded by.....

When enquiries were made regarding the Shanghai Operators Service it was found that the total sum received in fees from the students would not be sufficient to pay the expenses incurred in conducting the school, as there are only 12 students paying $8 per month attending night classes. Shunaman has no other business as far as can be ascertained, yet on May 11, 1936 his wife opened two current accounts at the National City Bank of New York, and at the end of January 1937, deposits made by cash totalled G$500 and C.S.$80. From this it would appear that they have some other source of income.

Information having been received that on Christmas Eve Shunaman invited a number of British soldiers to his school to attend a party, arrangements were made with Capt. J.G. Sandie, M.C. Officer-in-charge "A" Company, Loyal Regiment, to obtain further particulars regarding the matter. So far it has been ascertained that the soldiers met Shunaman in a bar, and after introducing himself he gave them his card and issued the invitation. The late passes which the soldiers applied for to enable them to attend this party were refused, but it is not yet known whether they did attend.

During January 1937, further enquiries were made regarding Shunaman and from the method adopted by him in certain business transactions it was felt that he was undoubtedly an agent of some sort.

On Feb. 2, 1937, an official of the U.S. Consulate General was approached and told of this suspicion, whereon he revealed that the original enquiry was the result on a letter from Washington D.C. in which it was stated that Shunaman was an important member of the American Communist Party.

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This official stated that he had a contact through whom he could obtain further information re Shunaman should the Police desire it. This information will be the subject of a further report and in the meantime a close watch will be kept on Shunaman.

J boyu
D. S. I.

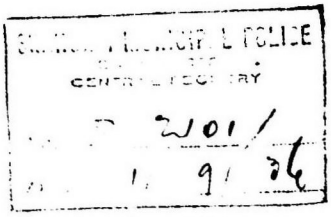
D.C. (Special Branch.)

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE No. 130.7
JBP/Jw

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
CENTRAL SECRETARY
2101
1 9 36



AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Shanghai, China,
August 29, 1936.

Subject: Shanghai Operators Service and Frederic Leslie Shunaman.

Major F. W. Gerrard, C.I.E.,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,
185 Foochow Road,
Shanghai, China.

Confidential

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 28, 1936, regarding the Shanghai Operators Service and Mr. Frederic Leslie Shunaman. Your courtesy in supplying the desired information is greatly appreciated.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. Gauss,
American Consul General.

Note and Return	
a.c.S.f.B.	YB

2101
28 6 36

August 28 36.

Confidential.

C. E. Gauss, Esq.,
American Consul-General,
Shanghai.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 130.7 dated August 8, 1936, containing an inquiry regarding the Shanghai Operators Service and one Frederic Leslie Shunaman, and in reply to inform you that the Shanghai Operators Service was formerly incorporated with the Shanghai Nautical Academy inaugurated by Captain A. C. Newton, a master mariner, at No. 12 Rue du Consulat in December 1935. This Academy specialized in radio-telegraphy with one Hulbert, a British subject, as an instructor. As a result of a quarrel over money matters Newton and Hulbert parted company and it was at this stage that Shunaman took over the radio work section. When the Shanghai Nautical Academy closed down in April, 1936, owing to financial difficulties, Shunaman took over the entire radio equipment and on August 1 he moved into Rooms 37/38 No. 190 Peking Road. The arrangements for the removal were made by Mrs. Shunaman who paid in advance the rental of $72.00 for the month of August.

The radio equipment used by Shunaman for instructing his pupils consists, among other things, of an R.C.A. 2 K.W. spark transmitter, about eight

receivers and a 110 volt motor generator which he is anxious to sell. Shunaman works on 600 metres and claims that he can pick up messages in almost any wave length. The transmitting set, which is valued at $200 local currency, is a ship installation formerly carried by the s.s. "Anastasis", a small Greek owned steamer which was broken up by the China Shipbreakers Ltd. of Shanghai about one year ago.

Discreet inquiries show that there are at present four pupils - two foreign and two Chinese - attending the classes conducted by Shunaman. There have been no callers on either Shunaman or his wife, nor have they paid any visits. On leaving his office Shunaman usually goes straight to his flat, No. B.3, 1191 Bubbling Well Road, and remains at home until the following morning when he returns to his office. Shunaman is spoken of by other men in the same profession as a very keen and competent radio engineer.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) F. W. Gerrard.

Commissioner of Police.

FM. 2
G. 40M-9-35

ZOZ-C

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

Section 2, Special Branch [illegible]

REPORT

Date August 26, 1936

Subject Shanghai Operators' Service and Frederic Leslie Shunaman.

Made by D.S. Jones Forwarded by T. Coyne D.S.S.

The Shanghai Operators' Service, now located at No. 190 Peking Road, was formerly incorporated with the Shanghai Nautical Academy, an institution opened up by Capt. A.C. Newton, a master-mariner who has spent many years on the China Coast and who now, chiefly on account of his drunken habits, is unemployed and living on charity.

Capt. Newton inaugurated the Academy named at No. 12 Rue du Consulat in December 1935, occupying a flat on the same floor as the Russian Mercantile Marine Association. This marine association trains officers for the merchant service and holds classes of instruction in wireless telegraphy. When Newton opened up his so-called Nautical Academy, also specialising in radio-telegraphy, in the adjoining flat the Russians rightly or wrongly considered that he had established himself there so that he might divert to his own establishment the flow of pupils which would normally be expected to enter the Russian Mercantile Marine Association.

At first a Britisher named Hulbert attended to the radio-telegraphic side of the new venture, but there was a quarrel between him and Newton over money matters and Hulbert cleared out.

Shunaman appeared on the scene at about this time. He occupied a room at the Shanghai Nautical Academy and appears to have carried on the radio work where Hulbert left off.

The Shanghai Nautical Academy was not a success and in April 1936 Newton shut up shop owing three months' rent to the landlord. Shunaman moved into Room 37/38 No. 190 Peking Road, business address of the Shanghai Operators' Service, on August 1st. His wife interviewed the house agents and made

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Made by.....Forwarded by.....

the necessary arrangements for moving into the new offices. When asked to give the name of a guarantor she said that as she and her husband intended to pay the rent in advance she did not think this would be necessary. Thereupon she paid over the sum of $72.00, which represented the rent of these two rooms for the month of August.

It has been ascertained that the electrical equipment used by Shunsman for instructing his pupils consists, among other things, of an R.C.A. 2 K.W. spark transmitter, about eight receivers and a 110 volt motor generator which he is anxious to sell. Shunsman works on 600 metres and has stated that he can pick up almost anything. The transmitting set is a ship installation which is understood to have been taken from the s.s. Anastasis, a small Greek owned steamer which was broken up by the China Shipbreakers Ltd. of Shanghai about one year ago. Its value is said to be in the neighbourhood of $250.00 local currency. Most of the equipment at No.190 Peking Road was brought from No. 12 Rue du Consulat, the former address of the Shanghai Operators' Service. It is not known what arrangement has been made between Newton and Shunsman re ownership of this property.

Observation has been made at No. 190 Peking Road, but no more than four pupils - two foreign and two Chinese - were seen to attend the classes at one time. Shunsman conducts these himself.

In order to obtain the information required in the last paragraph of the American Consul General's letter, a close watch has been kept on Shunsman's movements during the past few days and on occasions he has been shadowed when leaving

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both business and private addresses. Our observations have established the fact that neither he nor his wife receives any visitors, nor do they appear to do any visiting themselves. Shunaman usually goes straight to his flat - No. B.3, 1191 Bubbling Well Road - on leaving his office at Peking Road and remains at home until the following morning, when he leaves again for office.

On his way home last evening he did a bit of shopping along Peking Road, purchasing certain radio accessories at the 2nd hand shops dealing in these articles.

Other radio-men in Shanghai speak of Shunaman as being a very keen and competent radio engineer.

C. R. Jones

D. S.

D.B.R.
27/5

D.C. (Crime & Special Branches)

1601.

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SHANGHAI OPERATORS SERVICE

190 Peking Road, Rooms 37-38
Telephone 13787

x1516

S 2 / 4R

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE No. 130.7.
JBP/Jw

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MUNICIPAL POLICE
F 2101
10, 8 36

Confidential

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Shanghai, China,
August 8, 1936.

Subject: Shanghai Operators Service and Frederic Leslie Shunaman.

Major F. W. Gerrard, C.I.E.,
Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council,
185 Foochow Road,
Shanghai, China.

Sir: Confidential

I have the honor to state that an American citizen named Frederic Leslie Shunaman, who stated that he has been residing at Shanghai since December 6, 1935, has filed at this Consulate General an application for the registration of the Shanghai Operators Service, Rooms 37-38, 190 Peking Road, Shanghai. He stated further that his firm is a school which teaches radio telegraphy and the servicing of all sending and receiving radio equipment, and that the school, which has been in operation since April, 1936, has at present seven pupils. Mr. Shunaman was born in the United States of a naturalized father and was married on January 27, 1932, to Miss Yetta Gabin, who was born in Russia, and who is also residing at Shanghai.

The Consulate General would greatly appreciate receiving a report on Mr. Shunaman, especially one containing information regarding his radio equipment and the type of persons with whom he and his wife associate.

Very truly yours,

C. E. Gauss,
American Consul General.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
10 AUG 1936
SHANGHAI

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(CRIME BRANCH)